

Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 /085 W
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R 061310Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5863
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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TEHRAN FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EG LY XF

SUBJECT: SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN LIBYA

1. ALL PAPERS REPORT, AND GUMHURRIYA BANNERS, MAJOR
SOVIET-LIBYAN MILITARY COOPERATION. CITING "RELIABLE
DIPLOMATIC REPORTS" FROM LONDON, PAPERS CLAIM SOVIETS
HAVE ESTABLISHED AIR AND NAVAL FACILITIES IN MAJOR CITIES,
AND SET UP HUGE MUNITIONS DUMPS FAR FROM POPULATION CENTERS.
ALL INSTALLATIONS STRICTLY UNDER SOVIET CONTROL AND
LIBYANS DENIED ACCESS. SOVIET MIG 25 AIRCRAFT SAID TO BE
FLYING RECONNAISSANCE FROM AIR BASES.

2. LARGE SCALE WEAPONS DELIVERIES ALSO REPORTED,
INCLUDING 1200 T62 TANKS, 3000 "ARMORED VEHICLES"
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SEVERAL HUNDRED HEAVY AND LIGHT ARTILLERY PIECES,

ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERIES, AND AIRCRAFT SPARES INCLUDING MIG 21 AND 23 ENGINES. ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES CITED, WEAPONS IMPORTED ARE SUFFICIENT TO EQUIP ARMY OF 60,000.

3. BASIS FOR SOVIET-LIBYAN COOPERATION, ACCORDING TO REPORTS, IS USE OF LIBYA AS "BASE OF REVOLT AND DISTURBANCES" IN ARAB WORLD. MOSCOW AND QADHAFI SEEN TO HAVE PASSED BEYOND PLOTTING AGAINST SUDAN AND FANNING FIRES IN LEBANON TO POINT WHERE QADHAFI NOW BEING USED FOR "MORE DANGEROUS AND WIDE SCALE CONSPIRACIES AGAINST A NUMBER OF ARAB REGIMES."

4. COMMENT: "LONDON DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" CALCULATED TO IMPRESS LOCALS AS AUTHORITATIVE. MORE SOPHISTICATED, HOWEVER, LIKELY TO RECOGNIZE THIS REPORT AS EXPRESSION OF EGYPTIAN CONCERN OVER MACHINATIONS OF "LIBYAN LUNATIC."
MATTHEWS

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